

A new cultural, spiritual and academic centre that celebrates Aboriginal heritage will soon open, providing a welcoming environment for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and faculty, and emphasizing the growth of diversity on campus.

Aboriginal House, nestled between the Education Building and the Max Bell Centre, will serve as a hub for Aboriginal activities and programs and will be available to the campus as a whole. The centre was built to encourage a growing body of Aboriginal students as they pursue higher learning.

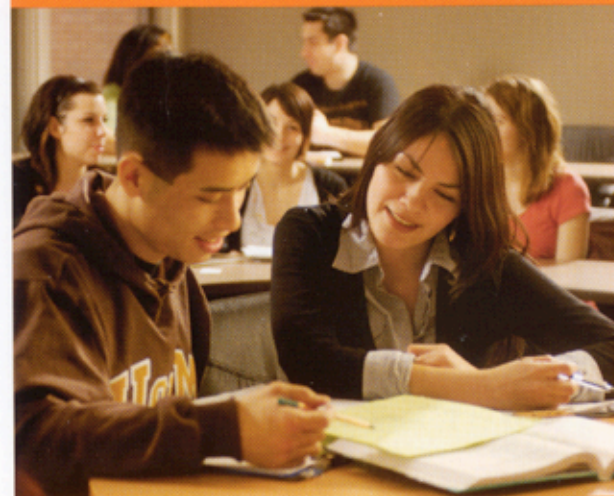
“We know that students do better at universities with a designated centre,” says University of Manitoba President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Emőke Szathmáry, an avid supporter of the centre,



A hub of Aboriginal culture in ACADEMIA

whose ongoing mission has been to make the University of Manitoba the first choice in Canada for post-secondary education for Aboriginal peoples. “These students feel more community, leading to a more positive university experience that will encourage them as they begin their professional careers.”

The university’s goal to attract more Aboriginal students is already starting to take shape. Increasingly, the University of Manitoba is welcoming more Aboriginal students on campus. In the fall of 2006, 1,578 students who self-identified as Aboriginal enrolled at the University of Manitoba. In 2007, enrollment was at 1,648 students – a rise of nearly five per cent.



The 13,000 square foot facility includes a meeting space, computer lab, student lounge and study area, and a dedicated space for Elders-in-Residence.

In 2007-2008 many individual and corporate donors supported construction of Aboriginal House. They include:

- **TransCanada Pipelines** **\$75,000**
- **Asham Curling Supplies** **\$50,000**
- **South Beach Casino** **\$50,000**